

Dear Sirs,

I am a mother of three and an independent voter. The conglomeration of the media into the hands of a few didn't start with the Sinclair Broadcasting Group. Neither did the takeover of the broadcast news function by partisan entertainers. But we do ourselves and our system of government a huge disservice when we don't fight the frightening trend toward using corporate might for personal or political gain.

It is no secret that the Bush administration is a friend of big media. This might be good for Sinclair's bottom line, but it is bad for the country in which Sinclair employees live, and it is shortsighted of you to allow media outlets to become the propaganda arm of the federal government.

George Bush has found it effective to use third party henchmen to launch personal attacks against his opponents: time and again he has encouraged them to smear the noble military service of John McCain and John Kerry, among others. This is bad for our country. I am sure that you can find plenty of Vietnam veterans who are pro-Bush and plenty of others who didn't like the fact that the young Kerry spoke out against the Vietnam war, yet he did so articulately and courageously. In fact, many people who had major roles in the prosecution of that war now agree it was a colossal error. That John Kerry saw it sooner than most and selflessly tried to get the country back on track is to his credit.

A one-sided attack piece aired mere days before an election is sure to sway voters, and swaying voters is the only intent of broadcasting "Stolen Honor." This puts the broadcasters in the business of electioneering, a violation of federal law and a violation of the principle that those who control the public airwaves should use them for the public good.

It is the job of the FCC to see that the interests of the public are served and the law is upheld. Several FCC directors have been trying to do this but have been stymied by the Bush administration and its flunky, Chairman Powell. Do not betray our democracy. Please return control of the airwaves to the communities they are supposed to serve. As a citizen your organization was created to protect, I demand that you prosecute all who fail to comply with the law and retract the licenses of those who use the airwaves to subvert the democratic process. Sincerely,

Charlotte Rogan, Dallas, TX